

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for examining the application, and for indicating that claims 3-5, 7-19, 26-28, and 30-42 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 20-23, 43-46, 48 and 49 are allowable as they previously stood.

Applicant has canceled claims 2 and 3, and amended claim 1 to include all of the limitation formerly present in now-canceled claims 2 and 3. Applicant has also amended claim 4 to correct its dependency, as claim 4 previously depended from now-canceled claim 2.

Similarly, Applicant has canceled claims 25 and 26, and amended claim 24 to include all of the limitations formerly present in now-canceled claims 25 and 26. Applicant has also amended claim 27 to correct its dependency, as claim 27 previously depended from now-canceled claim 25.

Finally, Applicant has amended claim 47 to include limitations similar to those found in amended claims 1 and 24.

Applicant has made these amendments to expedite and further prosecution of the application.

With these amendments, claims 1, 4-24, and 27-49 are now pending.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 6, 24, 25, 29, and 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA).

With the amendment of claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 3, which the Examiner indicated was allowable, as well as the subject matter of claim 2, an intervening claim, Applicant's amended independent claim 1 is now not disclosed by AAPA, and thus Applicants' amended independent claim 1 is allowable.

Applicant's amended independent claims 24 and 47 contain limitations similar to those of Applicant's allowable amended independent claim 1. Therefore, for at least the reasons given above with regards to Applicant's allowable amended independent claim 1, Applicant's Admitted Prior Art does not anticipate Applicant's amended independent claims 24 and 47, and thus Applicant's amended independent claims 24 and 47 are themselves allowable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art.

Applicant's dependent claims 6 and 29 depend from, respectively, Applicant's allowable amended independent claims 1 and 24. Therefore, for at least the reasons given above with regards to Applicant's allowable amended independent claims 1 and 24, Applicant's Admitted Prior Art does not anticipate Applicant's dependent claims 6 and 29, and thus Applicant's dependent claims 6 and 29 are themselves allowable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes this Amendment and Response to be fully responsive to the present Office Action. Thus, based on the foregoing Remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests allowance of the application.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is any fee occasioned by this response that is not paid, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-3735.

Should the enclosed papers or fees be considered incomplete, Applicant respectfully requests that the Patent Office contact the undersigned collect at the telephone number provided below.

Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the Applicant's undersigned Attorney if any issues are deemed to remain prior to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

/SPM/

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